

CHAPTER 29

LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§701. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

1. Accumulated contributions. "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all the amounts credited to a member's individual account, together with regular interest on the account. [PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

2. Actuarial equivalent. "Actuarial equivalent" means an amount of equal value when computed at the discount rate contained in actuarial assumptions adopted by the board of trustees. [PL 2021, c. 548, §1 (AMD).]

3. Average final compensation. "Average final compensation" means the average annual rate of earnable compensation of a member during the 3 years of creditable service, not necessarily consecutive, in which the average annual rate of earnable compensation is highest or during the member's entire period of creditable service if the period is less than 3 years. [PL 1991, c. 580, §1 (AMD).]

4. Beneficiary. "Beneficiary" means any person who receives or is designated to receive a benefit provided by this chapter. [PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

5. Board of trustees. "Board of trustees" means the board provided for in section 731. [PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

6. Child or children. [PL 1989, c. 133, §1 (RP).]

7. Consumer Price Index. [PL 1989, c. 133, §1 (RP).]

8. Creditable service. "Creditable service" means service rendered while a member of the former Maine Legislative Retirement System, the Legislative Retirement Program, the former Maine State Retirement System or the State and Teacher Retirement Program for which credit is allowed under section 802. [PL 2007, c. 491, §3 (AMD).]

9. Earnable compensation. "Earnable compensation" means the actual compensation of a Legislator. Any money paid by the State under an annuity contract for the future benefit of a Legislator is considered part of the Legislator's earnable compensation. The earnable compensation of a member retired with a disability retirement allowance under section 853 is assumed, for the purposes of determining benefits under this chapter, to be continued after the Legislator's date of termination of service at the same rate as received immediately prior to that time, subject to the same percentage adjustments, if any, that may apply to the amount of retirement allowance of the beneficiary under section 858.

[PL 2019, c. 475, §31 (AMD).]

10. Father.

[PL 1989, c. 133, §1 (RP).]

10-A. Internal Revenue Code. "Internal Revenue Code" or "Code" means the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

[PL 2009, c. 474, §1 (NEW).]

11. Legislator. "Legislator" means a member of the Legislature who is actively serving as of December 3, 1986, or who is elected subsequent to December 2, 1986.

[PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

11-A. Medical provider.

[PL 2021, c. 277, §1 (RP).]

12. Member. "Member" means a Legislator who is included in the membership of the Legislative Retirement Program, as provided in section 801.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §4 (AMD).]

13. Mother.

[PL 1989, c. 133, §1 (RP).]

14. Parent.

[PL 1989, c. 133, §1 (RP).]

15. Regular interest. "Regular interest" means interest at the rate which the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System sets from time to time, in accordance with Title 5, section 17156.

[PL 1989, c. 133, §2 (AMD); PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV).]

16. Retirement. "Retirement" means the termination of membership service with a retirement allowance granted under this chapter.

[PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

17. Spouse.

[PL 1989, c. 133, §3 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 133, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 580, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 474, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 88, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 475, §31 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 277, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 548, §1 (AMD).

§702. Name, establishment and purpose

There is established the Legislative Retirement Program as a governmental qualified defined benefit plan pursuant to Sections 401(a) and 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code and such other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and United States Treasury regulations and other guidance as are applicable, which has the powers and privileges of a corporation. [PL 2009, c. 474, §2 (AMD).]

The purpose of the Legislative Retirement Program is to provide retirement allowances and other benefits under this chapter for Legislators. [PL 2007, c. 491, §5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 491, §5 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 474, §2 (AMD).

§703. Legal process and assignment

The right of a person to a retirement allowance, the retirement allowance itself, the refund of a person's accumulated contributions, any death benefit, any other right accrued or accruing to a person under this chapter and the money in the various funds created by this chapter are not subject to

execution, garnishment, attachment or any other process and are unassignable except that: [PL 1991, c. 746, §1 (RPR); PL 1991, c. 746, §10 (AFF).]

1. Retirement allowance available for child support. A member's retirement allowance is available to satisfy a child support obligation that is otherwise enforceable by execution, garnishment, attachment, assignment or other process; [PL 1991, c. 746, §1 (NEW); PL 1991, c. 746, §10 (AFF).]

2. Accumulated contributions available for child support. A member's accumulated contributions that are refundable under sections 805-A and 805-B are available to satisfy a child support obligation that is otherwise enforceable by execution, garnishment, attachment, assignment or other process; [PL 2011, c. 606, §2 (AMD).]

3. Qualified domestic relations order. The rights and benefits of a member or retiree under this chapter are subject to the rights of or assignment to an alternate payee, as defined in Title 5, section 17001, subsection 3-B, under a qualified domestic relations order in accordance with Title 5, section 17059; and [PL 2011, c. 606, §3 (AMD).]

4. Forfeiture and restitution. The rights and benefits of a member or retiree under this chapter are subject to forfeiture or assignment to the member's spouse, dependent or former spouse in accordance with the provisions of Title 5, section 17062. [PL 2011, c. 606, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 746, §1 (RPR). PL 1991, c. 746, §10 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 137, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 606, §§2-4 (AMD).

§704. Beneficiaries under disability

Any beneficiary who is entitled to make an election of benefits under subchapter 5, but is not lawfully qualified to make that election, shall have that election made in the beneficiary's behalf by the person authorized to do so by Title 18-C, Article 5. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §2 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§705. Internal Revenue Code compliance

The Legislative Retirement Program established in this chapter is subject to the following requirements. [PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

1. Vesting. In compliance with the Code, Section 401(a)(7), a member is 100% vested in the member's contribution account at all times. [PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

2. Use of forfeitures of benefits. In compliance with the Code, Section 401(a)(8), any forfeitures of benefits by members or former members may not be used to pay benefit increases, but must be used to reduce unfunded liabilities. [PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

3. Benefits. In compliance with the Code, Section 401(a)(9), benefits must be paid in accordance with a good faith interpretation of the requirements of the Code, Section 401(a)(9) and the regulations in effect under that section as applicable to a governmental plan within the meaning of the Code, Section 414(d).

[PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

4. Application of annual compensation limits. In compliance with the Code, Section 401(a)(17), applicable annual compensation limits must be applied for purposes of determining benefits or contributions due to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

[PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

5. Rollovers. In compliance with the Code, Section 401(a)(31), a member may elect, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the board of trustees, to have any portion of an eligible rollover distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by the member in a direct rollover.

[PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

6. Qualified military service. Effective December 12, 1994, contributions, benefits and service credit with respect to qualified military service are governed by the Code, Section 414(u) and the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 and, effective January 1, 2007, the Code, Section 401(a)(37).

[PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

7. Additional requirements. In compliance with the Code, Section 415, the member contributions paid to and retirement benefits paid from the Legislative Retirement Program must be limited to the extent necessary to conform to the requirements of the Code, Section 415 for a qualified pension plan.

[PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

8. Compliance with Section 503(b). Effective July 1, 1989, the board of trustees may not engage in a transaction prohibited by the Code, Section 503(b).

[PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

9. Rules. The board of trustees shall adopt rules necessary to maintain the qualified pension plan tax status of the Legislative Retirement Program under the Internal Revenue Code as required for governmental defined benefit plans defined in the Code, Section 414(d). Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 474, §3 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 2

ADMINISTRATION

§731. Board of trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Legislative Retirement Program consists of those persons who are members of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. The Board of Trustees of the Legislative Retirement Program is responsible for the proper operation and implementation of the Legislative Retirement Program under this chapter. [PL 2007, c. 491, §6 (AMD).]

1. Duties. The board of trustees has the same duties with respect to the Legislative Retirement Program as with other programs of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System, including, but not limited to, those powers and duties enumerated in Title 5, chapter 421, subchapters 3, 4 and 5.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §7 (AMD).]

2. Administration of Legislative Retirement Program. The board of trustees shall administer the Legislative Retirement Program and may adopt and publish, in accordance with Title 5, chapter

375, subchapter 2, any rules necessary and proper to give effect to the intent, purposes and provisions of this chapter.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §8 (AMD).]

3. Expenses. The trustees are entitled to compensation as provided in Title 5, chapter 379 from the funds of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §9 (AMD).]

4. Oath. Each trustee shall, within 30 days after that trustee's appointment, take an oath of office to faithfully discharge the duties of a trustee, in the form prescribed by the Constitution of Maine. This oath must be subscribed to by the trustee making it, certified by the officer before whom it is taken and immediately filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

[PL 2001, c. 181, §1 (AMD).]

5. Quorum. Each voting trustee is entitled to one vote on the board of trustees. Five trustees constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. Five votes are necessary for any resolution or action by the board of trustees at any meeting of the board.

[PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. D, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 133, §4 (AMD). RR 1997, c. 2, §5 (COR). PL 1999, c. 790, §D1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 181, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §§6-9 (AMD).

§732. Executive director

The Chief Executive Officer of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System is the Executive Director of the Legislative Retirement Program. The executive director has the same powers and duties with respect to the Legislative Retirement Program as with other programs of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System, except as provided in this chapter. [PL 2007, c. 491, §10 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 548, §45 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §10 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 548, §45 (REV).

§733. Actuary

The actuary of the other programs of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System is the Actuary of the Legislative Retirement Program. [PL 2007, c. 491, §11 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §11 (AMD).

§734. Medical board

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 643, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §12 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 88, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 277, §2 (RP).

§735. Administrative procedures

Appeal from the executive director's decision is the same as provided for other programs of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System in Title 5, section 17451. [PL 2007, c. 491, §13 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 133, §5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §13 (AMD).

§736. Legal adviser

The Attorney General or an assistant designated by the Attorney General is the legal adviser of the Board of Trustees of the Legislative Retirement Program. [PL 2007, c. 491, §14 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 491, §14 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 3

FINANCING

§751. Control of funds

The board of trustees is the trustee of the funds created by this chapter and shall administer those funds in the same manner as is provided for the administration of other program funds of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System in accordance with Title 5, chapter 421, subchapters 3 and 4. The board of trustees may establish separate funds or accounts within a fund, as necessary. [PL 2007, c. 491, §15 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 402, §A7 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 133, §6 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §15 (AMD).

§752. Custodian of funds

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 249, §1 (RP).

§753. Expenses

All administrative operating expenses of the Legislative Retirement Program must be charged to the assets of the Legislative Retirement Program. [PL 2009, c. 415, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

1. Estimate funds biennially.

[PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. U, §1 (RP).]

2. Balance.

[PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. U, §1 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. U, §1 (RPR). PL 2009, c. 415, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).

§754. Investments

The board of trustees may combine funds from the Legislative Retirement Program and the assets of other programs of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System for investment purposes. The assets and funds of other programs of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and the assets and funds of the Legislative Retirement Program may not be combined for benefit payment purposes or for administrative expenses. [PL 2007, c. 491, §16 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §16 (AMD).

§755. Legislative findings and intent

1. Findings. The Legislature finds that the State owes a great debt to its retired Legislators for their years of faithful and productive service. Part of that debt is repaid by the benefits provided to Legislators through the Legislative Retirement Program.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §17 (AMD).]

2. Intent. It is the intent of the Legislature that there be appropriated and transferred annually to the Legislative Retirement Program the funds necessary to meet the program's long-term and short-term financial obligations based on the actuarial assumptions established by the board of trustees upon the advice of the actuary. The goal of the actuarial assumptions is to achieve a fully funded program. The program's unfunded liability must be funded by annual appropriations over the funding period of the program.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §17 (AMD).]

3. Implementation. It is the responsibility of the board of trustees to calculate the funds necessary to maintain the program on an actuarially sound basis, including the unfunded liability arising from payment of benefits for which contributions were not received and to transmit those calculations to the State Budget Officer as required by Title 5, sections 1661 to 1667. It is the responsibility of the Legislature to appropriate and transfer those funds annually.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §17 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 491, §17 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 4

MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION

§801. Membership

1. Membership mandatory. Every Legislator serving in the Legislature on or after December 3, 1986 is a member of the Legislative Retirement Program, except that any Legislator who was a member of the Maine State Retirement System on December 2, 1986 may choose to be a member of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program instead of becoming a member of the Legislative Retirement Program, and any Legislator who is a public school teacher or an employee of the Maine Community College System on leave of absence for the purpose of serving in the Legislature continues to be a member of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program and to have contributions deducted from the member's legislative earnable compensation as provided by Title 5, section 17701. A Legislator who terminates employment from a position requiring membership in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program no longer contributes to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program and, if qualified, is eligible to become a benefit recipient under Title 5, section 17804. Upon such termination, the Legislator becomes a member of the Legislative Retirement Program. Except as provided in section 802, subsection 4, paragraph A, creditable service granted under the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program may not be transferred to the Legislative Retirement Program. A member ceases to be a member when the member withdraws the member's contributions, becomes a beneficiary as a result of the member's own retirement or dies.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §18 (AMD).]

1-A. Waiver provision. Any Legislator may petition the presiding officer for a waiver from the membership provisions of subsection 1 if it can be demonstrated that membership in the Legislative Retirement Program will create or exacerbate a Legislator's federal income tax liability due to the

ownership of another retirement plan. The Office of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall provide assistance as requested by the Legislator or presiding officer. The presiding officer shall respond to the Legislator's petition within 30 days and shall provide copies of the decision to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the Chief Executive Officer of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. A granted waiver of membership constitutes a one-time irrevocable election with respect to all subsequent employment with the same employer when membership in the Legislative Retirement Program is not mandatory.

[PL 2009, c. 474, §4 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 548, §45 (REV).]

2. Reports from Executive Director of the Legislative Council. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall submit to the board of trustees a statement showing the name, title, compensation, sex, date of birth and length of service of each member and any other information as the board of trustees may require at such times as the board of trustees may require.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §18 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 737, §B4 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 133, §7 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 501, §08 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 657, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §002 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §004 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 516, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 249, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 491, §18 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 474, §4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 548, §45 (REV).

§802. Creditable service

Creditable service for the purpose of determining benefits under this chapter shall be allowed as follows. [PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

1. Legislative service after December 2, 1986. All legislative service of a member after December 2, 1986, for which contributions are made, shall be allowed as creditable service.

[PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

2. Legislative service before December 3, 1986. All service of a member as a Legislator before December 3, 1986 must be allowed as creditable service upon payment of contributions at that percentage rate required of members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program during the period of time covered by the legislative service applied to the earnable compensation of the member, together with interest at a rate set by a rule of the board of trustees from the end of the calendar year in which the compensation was paid to the date payment of the contributions is made.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §19 (AMD).]

3. Disability retirement. The period following the termination of service for which a beneficiary receives disability retirement allowance payments under section 853 shall be allowed as membership service.

[PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

4. State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program service. Creditable service as a member of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program as a state employee must be allowed as creditable service of the Legislative Retirement Program as follows.

A. Any member who has not withdrawn the member's accumulated contributions with the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program and is not a benefit recipient under Title 5, section 17804 may, upon becoming a Legislator, have the member's State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program contributions and membership service transferred to the member's account with the Legislative Retirement Program and all creditable service resulting from membership in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program is creditable service in the Legislative Retirement Program.

All funds in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program contributed by the State on account of the member's employment must be transferred to the Legislative Retirement Program and must be used to liquidate the liability incurred by reason of the member's previous employment. The State shall make contributions, from time to time, as may be necessary to provide the benefits under the Legislative Retirement Program for the member that have accrued to the member by reason of the member's previous employment and may accrue to the member by reason of membership in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program. [PL 2007, c. 491, §20 (AMD).]

B. Any member who has withdrawn that member's accumulated contributions from the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program may, subsequent to becoming a Legislator and prior to the date any retirement allowance becomes effective for the member, deposit in the fund by a single payment or by an increased rate of contribution an amount equal to the accumulated contributions withdrawn by the member, together with interest at a rate set by a rule of the board of trustees from the date of withdrawal to the date of repayment. If repayment is made in installments, interest continues to accrue on the outstanding balance. The member is entitled to all creditable service that the member acquired during the member's previous membership. In the event any retirement allowance becomes effective before repayment is completed, the member is entitled to credit for that portion of the total of the previous creditable service which the total amount of payments actually made bears to the total amount, including interest at a rate set by a rule of the board of trustees from the date of withdrawal to the date the retirement allowance becomes effective. [PL 2007, c. 491, §20 (AMD).]

C. A person may not receive benefits under both the Legislative Retirement Program and the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program based upon the same period of service. [PL 2007, c. 491, §20 (AMD).]

[PL 2007, c. 491, §20 (AMD).]

5. Amount of service per year. The board shall establish by rule the amount of creditable service to be granted for service rendered during a year, but in no case shall it allow more than one year of service for all service in one calendar year.

[PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 249, §3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 491, §§19, 20 (AMD).

§803. State contribution

1. Payment. For each member, the State shall pay annually into the fund an amount known as the employer contribution.

[PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

2. Employer contribution. Employer contribution must be fixed on the basis of the assets and liabilities of the Legislative Retirement Program as shown by actuarial valuation and is expressed as a percentage of the annual earnable compensation of each member.

A. The employer contribution rate represents the percentage of the member's compensation payable during periods of membership required to provide the difference between the total liabilities for retirement allowances and the amount of the assets in the fund. [PL 2007, c. 491, §21 (AMD).]

B. The employer contribution rate is determined on actuarial bases adopted by the board of trustees. The rate is determined by the board of trustees after each valuation and continues in force until a new valuation is made. [PL 2007, c. 491, §21 (AMD).]

[PL 2007, c. 491, §21 (AMD).]

3. State contribution procedure. The board of trustees shall submit budget estimates to the State Budget Officer in accordance with Title 5, section 1665.

On each payroll for Legislators, the State Controller shall cause a charge to be made of an amount or amounts in payment of the state costs of all charges related to the Legislative Retirement Program and which must be credited to the appropriate accounts of the fund. Percentage rates to be predetermined by the actuary and approved by the board of trustees must be applied to the total gross salaries of members appearing on those payrolls and the resultant charges must be periodically credited to the retirement fund.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §21 (AMD).]

4. Minimum amount of employer contribution. The aggregate payment by the State into the fund must be at least sufficient to provide the benefits payable out of the fund and the administrative operating expenses of the Legislative Retirement Program during the current year.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §21 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. U, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 491, §21 (AMD).

§804. Members' contributions

On and after July 1, 1993, each member shall contribute at a rate of 7.65% of earnable compensation. [PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. L, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 410, §L3 (AMD).

§805. Return of accumulated contributions

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 387, §A1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 651, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 137, §2 (RP).

§805-A. Refund of accumulated contributions

1. Conditions for refund. If the service of any member has terminated, except by death or by retirement under this chapter, the member must be paid the amount of the member's accumulated contributions under the following conditions:

A. The member must have properly applied for a refund of accumulated contributions; [PL 2007, c. 137, §3 (NEW).]

B. Payment must be made after termination of service and not less than 22 days nor more than 60 days after receipt of the application and receipt of the last payroll upon which the name of the member appears; [PL 2007, c. 137, §3 (NEW).]

C. An application for refund is void if the member filing the application returns to membership in any retirement program administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System before issuance of the payment; and [PL 2007, c. 491, §22 (AMD).]

D. Only accumulated contributions made by the member or picked up by the employer may be refunded to that member under this subsection. [PL 2007, c. 137, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 491, §22 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 137, §3 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 491, §22 (AMD).

§805-B. Inactive accounts

1. Conditions for refund. The retirement system may make an automatic refund of contributions to a member who has not properly applied for a refund as provided in section 805-A and who has terminated service, except by death or by retirement under this chapter, and who has not met the minimum creditable service requirement for eligibility to receive a service retirement benefit at the applicable age under the following conditions:

A. The member account in the retirement system has been inactive for 3 or more years; [PL 2007, c. 137, §4 (NEW).]

B. Only accumulated contributions made by the member or picked up by the employer may be refunded to that member under this subsection; and [PL 2007, c. 137, §4 (NEW).]

C. A member who receives an automatic refund under this subsection may, within 30 days of the issuance of the refund, return the full refunded amount to the retirement system. Upon receipt, the retirement system shall restore the accumulated contributions to the member's credit. [PL 2007, c. 137, §4 (NEW).]

Pursuant to the Code, Section 401(a)(31)(B), the amount of an automatic refund under this section may not exceed \$1,000.

[PL 2009, c. 474, §5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 137, §4 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 474, §5 (AMD).

§806. Additional member contributions by certain members

1. Application. This section applies to a Legislator who is a public school teacher or an employee of the Maine Community College System who is on a leave of absence for the purpose of serving in the Legislature on or after July 1, 2002.

[PL 2001, c. 657, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §4 (AFF).]

2. Additional member contributions on difference in earnable compensation. A Legislator subject to this section whose earnable compensation as a Legislator is less than the earnable compensation that would have been earned in the position from which the Legislator is on a leave of absence may make member contributions on the amount that represents the difference between the legislative earnable compensation received and the earnable compensation that would have been received in the position from which the Legislator is on a leave of absence.

[PL 2001, c. 657, §2 (NEW).]

3. Maximum total earnable compensation; total member contributions. The total earnable compensation on which a Legislator makes member contributions under this section may not be greater than the earnable compensation that the Legislator would have received had the Legislator remained in the position from which the Legislator is on a leave of absence. The Legislator's total member contributions under this section may not be greater than the member contributions that would have been paid on the earnable compensation that the Legislator would have received had the Legislator remained in that position from which the Legislator is on a leave of absence.

[PL 2001, c. 657, §2 (NEW).]

4. Method of member contribution. A Legislator may make member contributions under this section by either a single lump sum payment or by annual direct payments as provided by Title 5, section 17701, subsection 4.

[PL 2001, c. 657, §2 (NEW).]

5. Interest. If the Legislator makes member contributions under this section in the year in which the Legislator is on leave of absence, no interest accrues. If payment of member contributions under

this section is made at any later time, interest accrues at a rate to be set by the board of trustees not to exceed regular interest by 5% or more, computed beginning at the end of the year in which the contributions would have been made to date of payment.

[PL 2001, c. 657, §2 (NEW).]

6. Written agreement. A Legislator who elects to make additional member contributions under this section must enter into a written agreement with the Maine Public Employees Retirement System for the making of the contributions. The agreement must be in a form specified by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and according to terms and procedures specified by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

[PL 2001, c. 657, §2 (NEW); PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV).]

7. Employer contribution. Whenever a Legislator elects to make member contributions under this section, the State shall pay the employer share of contributions on the amount that represents the difference between the legislative earnable compensation received by the Legislator and the earnable compensation that would have been received by the Legislator in the position from which the Legislator is on a leave of absence.

[PL 2001, c. 657, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 657, §2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO4 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV).

SUBCHAPTER 5

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

§851. Eligibility for retirement

Upon written application to the board setting forth the date upon which the member chooses to terminate employment, any member may retire on a service retirement allowance upon meeting one of the following. [PL 1989, c. 133, §8 (AMD).]

1. Age 60 years; 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993.

[PL 1999, c. 756, §1 (RP).]

1-A. Age 62; less than 10 years creditable service on July 1, 1993.

[PL 1999, c. 756, §1 (RP).]

1-B. At least 10 years of creditable service or 60 years of age on July 1, 1993. A member who on July 1, 1993, whether or not in service on that date, had 10 years of creditable service or who on July 1, 1993 had reached 60 years of age and was then in service may retire at 60 years of age or thereafter, whether or not the member is in service at retirement. Creditable service as a member of any other retirement program of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System may be combined with creditable service as a member of the Legislative Retirement Program for the purpose of determining the completion of 10 years of creditable service.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §23 (AMD).]

1-C. Less than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993. A member who on July 1, 1993 had less than 10 years of creditable service and who was in service on October 1, 1999; who had left service prior to October 1, 1999 with or without withdrawing contributions and on or after October 1, 1999 returned to service; or who first enters service on or after October 1, 1999 may retire at 62 years of age or thereafter, whether or not the member is in service at retirement, as long as the member has at the time of retirement at least 5 years of creditable service. Creditable service as a member of any other retirement program of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System may be combined with

creditable service as a member of the Legislative Retirement Program for the purpose of determining the completion of 5 years of creditable service.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §24 (AMD).]

1-D. At least 5 years creditable service on July 1, 2011. Eligibility for retirement for a member who on July 1, 2011 had at least 5 years of creditable service is governed by subsection 1-B if the member had 10 years of creditable service or was at least 60 years of age on July 1, 1993 or by subsection 1-C if the member had less than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993.

[PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. T, §1 (NEW).]

1-E. Less than 5 years creditable service on July 1, 2011. A member who on July 1, 2011 had less than 5 years of creditable service may retire at 65 years of age or thereafter, whether or not the member is in service at retirement, as long as the member has at the time of retirement at least 5 years of creditable service. Creditable service as a member of any other retirement program of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System may be combined with creditable service as a member of the Legislative Retirement Program for the purpose of determining the completion of 5 years of creditable service.

[PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. T, §2 (NEW).]

2. Early retirement; 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993. Any member, whether or not in service at retirement, who on July 1, 1993 had at least 10 years of creditable service and who has completed at least 25 years of creditable service may retire any time before the member's 60th birthday. Creditable service as a member of any other retirement program of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System may be combined with creditable service as a member of the Legislative Retirement Program for the purpose of determining the completion of 25 years of creditable service. The retirement allowance is determined in accordance with section 852, except that it is reduced by multiplying the retirement allowance by a fraction that represents the ratio of the amount of a life annuity due at age 60 years to the amount of a life annuity due at the age of retirement. The tables of annuities in effect at the date of retirement are used for this purpose.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §25 (AMD).]

2-A. Early retirement; less than 10 years creditable service on July 1, 1993. Any member, whether or not in service at retirement, who on July 1, 1993 had less than 10 years of creditable service and who has completed at least 25 years of creditable service may retire any time before the member's 62nd birthday. Creditable service as a member of any other retirement program of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System may be combined with creditable service as a member of the Legislative Retirement Program for the purpose of determining the completion of 25 years of creditable service. The retirement allowance is determined in accordance with section 852, except that it is reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes age 62.

[PL 2007, c. 491, §26 (AMD).]

2-B. Five-year minimum creditable service requirement for eligibility to receive a service retirement benefit at applicable age; applicability. The minimum requirement of 5 years of creditable service for eligibility to receive service retirement benefits under subsection 1-C, 1-D or 1-E applies only to:

A. A member who was in service on October 1, 1999; [PL 1999, c. 756, §4 (NEW).]

B. Upon return to service, a member who had left service prior to October 1, 1999 with or without withdrawing that member's contributions and who on or after October 1, 1999 returned to service; or [PL 1999, c. 756, §4 (NEW).]

C. A member who was first in service on or after October 1, 1999. [PL 1999, c. 756, §4 (NEW).]

For those members to whom the 5-year minimum creditable service requirement does not apply, the 10-year minimum creditable service requirement for eligibility to receive service retirement benefits remains in effect on and after October 1, 1999.

[PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. T, §3 (AMD).]

2-C. Early retirement; less than 5 years creditable service on July 1, 2011. Any member, whether or not in service at retirement, who on July 1, 2011 had less than 5 years of creditable service and who has completed at least 25 years of creditable service may retire any time before the member's 65th birthday. Creditable service as a member of any other retirement program of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System may be combined with creditable service as a member of the Legislative Retirement Program for the purpose of determining the completion of 25 years of creditable service. The retirement allowance is determined in accordance with section 852, except that it is reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes age 65.

[PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. T, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 133, §8 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 528, §EEE1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 528, §§EEE18,RRR (AFF). PL 1991, c. 591, §EEE1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 591, §EEE18 (AFF). PL 1993, c. 410, §§L3-A (AMD). RR 1999, c. 1, §1 (COR). PL 1999, c. 756, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §§23-26 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. T, §§1-4 (AMD).

§852. Retirement benefits

1. Amount. The service retirement allowance of a member shall be determined under this chapter in effect on the member's date of final termination of service. Subject to the minimum benefit provided for in paragraph B, the total amount of the retirement allowance of a member retired in accordance with section 851 shall be equal to:

A. One-fiftieth of the member's average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service allowed under section 802; and [PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

B. Any member who has 10 or more years of creditable service at retirement shall be entitled to a minimum of \$100 per month. [PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).

§853. Disability retirement

Any member who becomes disabled while in service may receive a disability retirement allowance on the same basis as provided for members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program by Title 5, chapter 423, subchapter 5, article 3-A. [PL 2017, c. 88, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 133, §9 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §27 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 88, §3 (AMD).

§854. Restoration to service

If a recipient of a retirement allowance under this chapter again becomes a member of the Legislature, the recipient may: [PL 2019, c. 475, §32 (AMD).]

1. Receive allowance. Continue to receive the retirement allowance and not accrue any additional creditable service for that legislative service; or
[PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW).]

2. Discontinue allowance. Direct, in writing, that the executive director discontinue the recipient's retirement allowance and the recipient accrues additional creditable service for that legislative service. [PL 2019, c. 475, §32 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 475, §32 (AMD).

§855. Ordinary death benefits

If a member who is in service or a former member who is a recipient of a disability retirement allowance dies, the member's beneficiary, or relative if no designated beneficiary, is entitled to benefits on the same basis as provided for beneficiaries of state employees who are members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program by Title 5, chapter 423, subchapter 5, article 4. [PL 2007, c. 491, §28 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 133, §10 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §28 (AMD).

§856. Accidental death benefits

If a member or a former member who is receiving a disability retirement allowance dies as a result of an injury received in the line of duty, benefits must be paid on the same basis as provided for members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program by Title 5, chapter 423, subchapter 5, article 5. [PL 2007, c. 491, §29 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 133, §11 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §29 (AMD).

§857. Payment of service retirement allowance

All service retirement allowances must be paid on the same basis as provided for members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program by Title 5, section 17804. [PL 2007, c. 491, §30 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 133, §12 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §30 (AMD).

§858. Cost-of-living and other adjustments

Retirement allowances under this chapter must be adjusted on the same basis as provided for members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program by Title 5, section 17806. [PL 2007, c. 491, §31 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 507, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 133, §13 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §31 (AMD).

§859. Remarriage after retirement

If a retiree who is the recipient of a reduced service retirement allowance under section 857 remarries after the retiree's spouse dies, the retiree may elect to have the reduced retirement benefit paid under the same option to the new spouse after the retiree's death instead of continuing the original reduced retirement allowance to the retiree during the retiree's lifetime, under the same basis as provided for members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program by Title 5, section 17805. [PL 2007, c. 491, §32 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 133, §14 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §32 (AMD).

§860. Divorce

If a retiree who is the recipient of a reduced service retirement allowance under section 857 is granted a divorce either after retirement or before a retirement beneficiary is named, the provisions of Title 5, section 17805-A apply on the same basis as for members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program. [PL 2007, c. 491, §33 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 55, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 58, §3 (REV). PL 2007, c. 491, §33 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.